



Our newest councilmembers: Kristen Weaver, p.7, Ric Gordon, p.12

Tony, Our Mailman, Retires

by Mary Moien

Tony Schiavone, who has delivered the mail in Old Greenbelt for 36 years, retired from the U.S. Postal Service on December 30. Yes, Tony has a last name – although most only know him by his first name. And neither rain nor snow nor heat ... kept Tony from his appointed rounds. Once residents of Hillside, Greenhill, Eastway and the streets that curve off of these areas heard that Tony was retiring, plans were put into action. Kathy Reynolds and Kathy Legendre (from Eastway) organized a wonderful reception for residents, friends and family at the Greenbelt Fire Department on December 27. Many homes in Woodland Hills posted signs to honor Tony and his career. And at least one letter to the Editor appeared in this newspaper.

Although Tony only

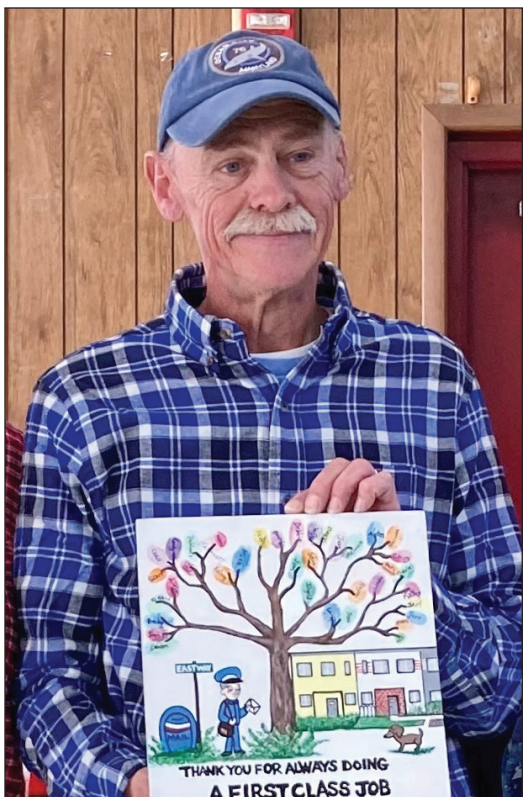


PHOTO BY ROBIN OLSON

Mailman Tony Schiavone poses with artwork by Greenbelt resident Debbie Coulter.

lived in Greenbelt for a few years, there is a Greenbelt connection. He married Kathleen Fitzgerald who grew up on Empire Place and his older children attended St. Hugh's School. Tony reminisced that when he began delivering mail in Greenbelt, the Post Office was still located in Old Greenbelt under the Co-op Grocery Store. He said he "walked the route," picking up mail and delivering it to the areas around Southway and the city offices. He worked several different routes but was assigned to his final route for many years. Of course, the Post Office is now in Greenbelt East, so residents would look for Tony's mail truck on the

See MAILMAN, page 7

Remaining Reform Proposals Reviewed by Council, Chief

by Diane Oberg

On Monday, December 19, Police Chief Richard Bowers briefed the Greenbelt City Council on the department's proposed actions to address the remaining nine issues not addressed by the January 2022 police reform resolution 2096-2. Council appeared to be content with the chief's proposed approaches and Mayor Emmett Jordan, with apparent consensus from his colleagues, did not think that further legislation was required. Bowers also updated council on progress toward incorporating the resolution changes into the General Orders.

Resolution

Based largely on changes proposed by then-mayor Colin Byrd, the resolution mandated 22 changes to the police department's General Orders although not all have yet been incorporated. Bowers said the department has completed 19 or 20 of those changes.

Council, however, does not approve General Orders. That is the responsibility of the chief, who reports to the city manager in his role as head Public Safety Officer.

Bowers explained that there are several periods when the General Orders cannot be changed. The department will be holding promotion tests in March. Since the officers are tested on the General Orders, Bowers explained, it would be unfair to change the orders while the officers are studying them. Also,

the department will undergo its annual accreditation review with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in May. The General Orders cannot be changed during this process either. In addition, some of the changes in the resolution could not be incorporated directly as they conflicted with or used different terminology than CALEA uses. For example, the resolution uses the term "baseless" with respect to complaints. However, this term is not used in either the state disciplinary matrix or CALEA standards.

State police reform legislation made significant changes affecting use of force and internal affairs requiring changes to or rewriting of some general orders. Bowers said that these changes are nearly complete and will be sent to council soon. Changes also are reviewed by the Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police per their contract with the city.

Prince George's County also made changes affecting city police, including a Police Accountability Board. This board is not yet operating. The board has been incorporated into Bowers's General Orders, but further changes may be needed.

Nine Issues

Council had deferred action on nine of Byrd's proposed changes. Bowers prepared a memorandum showing Byrd's proposal, the recommendation of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and

his proposed action. PSAC's recommendations are mentioned below only when they differ from Byrd's. While members of PSAC were present, they declined to comment on the spot with Chair Peggy Higgins stating that they would provide comments in writing.

Two of the proposals are now covered by state legislation so the department is not proposing any additional city action. These include proposals 1) to refer the investigation of any officer whose conduct results in a fatality to the state's attorney's office, and 2) specifying interview procedures with juveniles. The state requirements will be reflected in the city's General Orders.

Body Cameras

Byrd had also proposed requiring the release of body camera footage within seven working days of a request and within

See REFORM, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, January 9
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, January 11
No Council Meeting

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

A Look Back at 2022

The News Review presents highlights from last year's news stories. The reviews were prepared by Anna Bedford-Dillow, Deb Daniel, Jon Gardner, Amy Hansen, Cathie Meetre, Diane Oberg, Lois Rosado, Melissa Sites and Gloria Walters-Flowers.

Covid Infections Increase, Impacts Decline

Covid-19 in the U.S. was about 22 months old as 2022 began. Remarkably, by then, vaccines had been available for a year, a feat perhaps under-appreciated by a population jaded by daily medical miracles and technological advances.

By 2022, Covid, perhaps scenting human opposition, had mutated multiple times. Our local public schools had switched back to remote learning for much of December 2021 and January 2022. In January, after people celebrated the holidays more socially after a bleak 2021, there was a massive nationwide spike in cases. This was echoed in ZIP

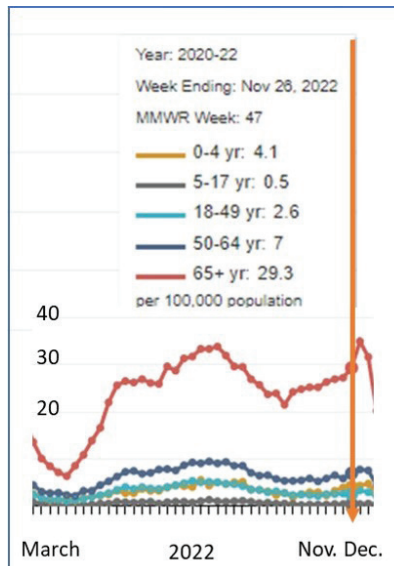
code 20770 statistics where the month saw nearly a thousand new infections here (almost certainly under-reported due to the use of home tests) compared to a more typical 110-150 per month.

The number hospitalized or dying among those infected, however, was much lower than pre-vaccination so though hospitalizations and deaths went up some, the result was not nearly as deadly. In June a vaccine was finally approved for children 5 and under, the only group for whom one had not yet been available. The vaccine, even if it didn't prevent disease, has protected recipients from its worst effects through 2022, especially the new bi-valent vaccine available from early September.

Covid receded in Greenbelt's day-to-day consciousness with the return in 2022 of Greenbelt Recreation activities and camps, a Farmers Market without orange fencing, the Labor Day Festival and a bumper holiday Art and Craft sale. News Review staff went back to its office and ad revenues began a slow recovery as businesses ramped up.

If the News Review is a microcosm of the city, though, many of its staff – who meticulously didn't get Covid through 2020 and 2021 – caught the virus in 2022. Most members are of a vulnerable age, but all are vaccinated and boosted and so far (touch wood) all have recovered without hospitalization (though some allowed as to how they were pretty doggone miserable).

See LOOK BACK, page 6



BASED ON GRAPHS PRODUCED BY THE CDC

The proportion of older people hospitalized for Covid is getting higher. Over a third of those hospitalized are 65+.



PHOTO BY LIN ORRIN

Jack Frost visits Greenbelt Lake.

Editorial

Local Newspapers Remain Important Source of News

News stations and commentators have said that the failure of the press to reveal the lies and evasions attributed to newly elected U.S. Representative George Santos are a result of the death of local media.

New York Times White House Correspondent Maggie Haberman stated on CNN’s This Morning show that the networks and major newspapers have gotten out of the habit of picking up news from small town media and taking it to the next investigative level. That the discrepancies revealed by Long Island’s North Shore Leader, a small weekly newspaper serving about 20,000 people in multiple communities on the island’s Gold Coast, failed to get the attention of the larger-scale press.

Small newspapers, like the News Review, were once the go-to for detailed knowledge and the defense of truth at the grassroots, but the advent of broadcast and the pace of online media have relegated them to a back seat, despite the fact that they see things up close and at ground level.

As we head into 2023, we’re just here to say, with Mark Twain, the reports of our death are greatly exaggerated.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks

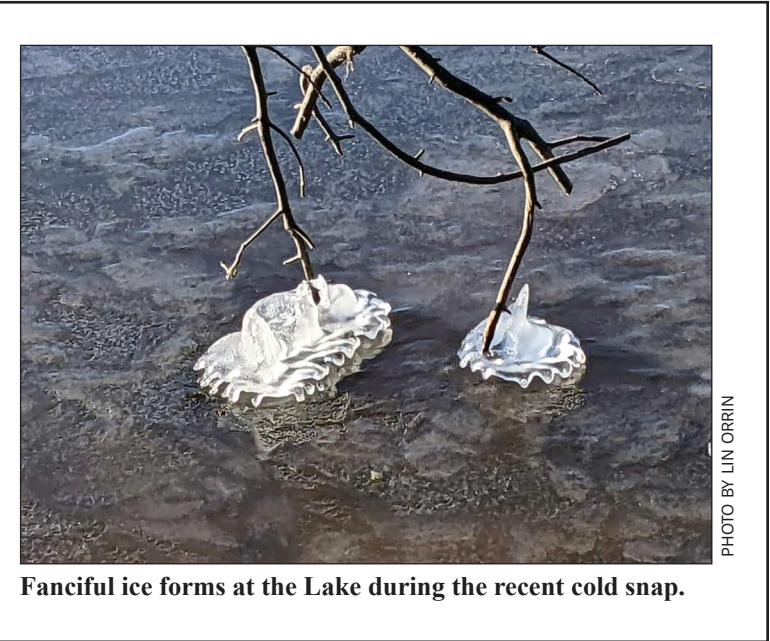
Thanks for the exceedingly fine article by Cooper Fojas about Wreaths Across America bringing Christmas wreaths to decorate the graves at Arlington National Cemetery.

I may possibly not be the only person wondering what happens to the wreaths after the season, when the greens have dried out and have begun to look degraded. Do the same volunteers return to collect them? Are the greens composted and the wire frames recycled?

By any chance is there a volunteer group who emails Gold Star parents/families a picture of their loved one’s decorated stone, upon request?

Mr. Fojas might be able to enlighten us with a (shorter) follow-up article since he may have already asked these same questions in his interviews and/or research for his December 22 story.

Wilma McMann



Fanciful ice forms at the Lake during the recent cold snap.

On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

Avatar: The Way of Water

James Cameron’s Academy Award-winning 2009 epic adventure Avatar continues in the lush alien world of Pandora and its inhabitants, the Na’vi – beings who appear primitive but are highly evolved. Because the planet’s environment is poisonous, human/Na’vi hybrids, called Avatars, must link to human minds to allow for free movement on Pandora. Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), a paralyzed former Marine, becomes mobile again through one such Avatar and falls in love with a Na’vi woman (Zoe Saldana). As a bond with her grows, he is drawn into a battle for the survival of her world.

Corsage

Empress Elisabeth of Austria is idolized for her beauty and renowned for inspiring fashion trends. But in 1877, “Sissi” celebrates her 40th birthday and must fight to maintain her public image by lacing her corset tighter and tighter. While Elisabeth’s role has been reduced against her wishes to purely performative, her hunger for knowledge and zest for life makes her more and more restless in Vienna. She travels to England and Bavaria, visiting former lovers and old friends, seeking the excitement and purpose of her youth. With a future of strictly ceremonial duties laid out in front of her, Elisabeth rebels against the hyperbolized image of herself and comes up with a plan to protect her legacy.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

Crisis Hotline’s New Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is now 988 and is available for phone calls and text messages. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JANUARY 6TH - 12TH

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Avatar: The Way of Water
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2022)
(192 mins)

Fri. 2:45 PM, 7:00 PM
Sat. 2:30 PM, 7:00 PM
Sun. 12:45 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Mon. 12:45 PM, 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Corsage (NR) (CC) (DVS)
(2022) (114 mins)

Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM, 5:15 PM
Tues. 7:30 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

My New Year’s resolution is to be less confrontational.

- M. Kusie

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center’s east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

Golden Age Club

Make 2023 the year to join Greenbelt’s Golden Age Club. For those 60 years or older and a resident of Greenbelt, meetings are every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Community Center’s second floor meeting room. There’s always lots going on. The first Wednesday of the month is a business and social meeting; the second Wednesday often features a special speaker. The third Wednesday celebrates birthdays of the month and the fourth Wednesday is BINGO.

A number of special events are planned for the coming year, including our anniversary luncheon at the College Park Holiday Inn in April. Other months will include a presentation on kitchen hacks for seniors, physical therapy for better health and a presentation by Donna Peterson on Women of the Wild West.

Become a Plogger: Make Greenbelt Sparkle

What is “plogging”? It’s an eco-friendly exercise that involves picking up trash while jogging or walking – taking care of one’s health at the same time. Plogging was coined by Swedish outdoorsman and environmentalist Erik Ahlstrom and comes from plocka, the Swedish word for pick up.

Greenbelt Plogs, a RUAK initiative, is a fun and engaging way to clean up litter from the streets, paths, streams and ponds while raising awareness on the importance of preventing stormwater pollution.

Join fellow Greenbelters in helping make Greenbelt sparkle.

Those interested in joining Greenbelt Plogs should email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

Equity Alliance Meets January 10

The Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance (GREA) holds its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. through Zoom. Agenda items include reviewing actions and impact for 2022 and planning for 2023.

For a link to the meeting, go to the GREA website at greenbeltracialequity.org/events/.

Mindfulness Sunday

A new year is upon us. Take some time to prepare for the journey ahead. In an upcoming Zoom session on Sunday, January 8, Katrina Boverman will lead a guided meditation and mindfulness practice.

Throughout Boverman’s career as a social worker and with Mishkan Torah Sisterhood she has guided and empowered hundreds of people to slow down, become quiet, go within and experience a bit more peace. Join in to start the new year peacefully.

The Zoom meeting goes from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on January 8. The meeting ID is 943 5969 1872, and the passcode is 016110. To get the link and/or be added to the list, send an email to events@greenbeltunplugged.org.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

Chess Club Meeting Monday, January 9

Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Monday, January 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the New Deal Café.

All ages and skill level are invited, with teaching as needed. This event is free. Any questions? For more information call Effie Levner 443-415-1053.

Waxed Paper Star Workshop Jan. 7

Greenbelter Ingrid Hass will teach a Waxed Paper Star workshop on Saturday, January 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park. This workshop is sponsored by College Park Arts Exchange. There is a small fee for materials. Visit cpae.org for more information.



PHOTO BY INGRID HASS

Waxed paper star in a window

New Deal Hosts Two Band & Book Events

The Reilly Goulait Band, which has been a regular act at the New Deal Café for years, will be back again in January with a special twist. On Thursday, January 19 from 7 to 9 p.m., the band will perform live music, including new original songs inspired by Bob Reilly’s book, *Rideshare* by Robert: Every Ride’s a Short Story. Reilly, of Laurel, has heard approximately 33,000 stories from passengers during the past seven years while driving for Uber and Lyft.

On Sunday, January 22, from 1 to 3 p.m., Reilly will be at the New Deal for a Meet the Author event, with a book introduction, Q & A, storytelling and an acoustic musical presentation of original songs inspired by stories in the book and the rideshare experience. Reilly will be joined by Joe Goulait of the Reilly Goulait Band for this special event.



GHI Launches Search For General Manager

On December 16, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. officially launched the search for a new general manager with the release of a board-approved position profile. This search is necessary because current General Manager Eldon Ralph will retire soon.

Those interested in learning more or applying for the general manager position can find a detailed description of the position as well as application requirements at <https://tinyurl.com/tnykr9a6>. Review of submitted resumes will begin in early January. Questions about the search can be directed to the GHI Transition and Search Committee at ghitransitionandsearch@ghi.coop.

Monday Meet-Ups For Homeschoolers

Monday meet-ups for homeschoolers at the Greenbelt Youth Center are back. There is play for the kids and support for the parents. All ages invited. Meetings are on Mondays, January 23 through May 22 (no meetings on federal holidays) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet in the Multipurpose Room for play, socialization and age-appropriate activities/games; bring a brown bag lunch.

All families in and near Greenbelt are invited to join. This is not a drop-off program; children must be directly supervised by their adult.

See Facebook: Greenbelt Homeschoolers or [gbhs20770](https://www.facebook.com/gbhs20770). [wixsite.com/gbhomeschoolers](https://www.wixsite.com/gbhomeschoolers). For questions or to sign up contact Li'l Dan, parent volunteer/city liaison: dceldran@hotmail.com, 240-643-3768.

More Community Events
are located throughout
the paper.

Volunteers, Students Join Composting Work

Join The Wigglers on Saturday, January 7, starting at 9 a.m., for an outdoor workday at the three-bin hot-composting station behind Roosevelt Center, beside the Aquatic & Fitness Center. High school students can earn volunteer hours while learning about composting. Enjoy snacks and conversation while you work.

The Wigglers (a group of volunteer humans) pre-compost food for the red wiggler worms who reside on the loading dock of the New Deal Café, making vermicompost, a highly prized soil amendment and nutrient load for plants.

Anyone who would like to learn more about how the rapid hot-composting process works, while keeping food waste from the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket from the landfill, come by anytime between 9 and 11 a.m. on Saturday. Email NewDealWigglers@gmail.com for questions.


Hillside Underpass Restoration Work

Help prepare the ground for the benefit of insects, butterflies and birds. The GHI Woodlands Committee is hosting a workday on Sunday, January 8 from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be removal of invasive shrubs and vines to prepare for planting bare-root elderberry, spicebush and native wildflowers above the Hillside Road underpass. Meet on the bike path by the underpass, just a bit uphill from the Firefly Sanctuary.

What to bring:

1. A face mask for when in proximity to others.
2. Clothes that cover the skin.
3. Loppers, pruning shears, and shovels.

For more information, contact SowingStrength2@gmail.com.






Greenbelt Access Television
Jan. 7, Sat. – Jan. 13, Fri

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station

7am	Greenbelt This Year	Community submissions from 2022
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	Classic Movies	<i>Charade</i> • 1963 Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant
11am	Greenbelt This Year	Community submissions from 2022
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	<i>Robert Goddard v. Thomas Johnson</i>
2pm	Music at the New Deal *NEW* SEASON SIX	<i>The Thrillbillys • Roots, Blues, Rockabilly</i>
3pm	Classic Movies	<i>Charade</i> • 1963 Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant
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11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt This Year	Community submissions from 2022

Connect with GATe    www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

This Week at the New Deal Café

The ONLY Greenbelt venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!



Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op

Evening reservations recommended: 301-474-5642
113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 1/5	FRI 1/6	SAT 1/7	SUN 1/8	MON 1/9
Wolf's Blues Jam & Show 6:30-10pm Boogie Blues Jam!	Dirty Soul 8-11pm Low-down Funk Meets Bluesy Soul	Community Drum Circle with Katy 3:30-5pm The Roustabouts 8-11pm	Deaf Brunch 10:30am-12pm Bassett Hound Boys Elvis Tribute 6-8pm	Membership Appreciation Night 4-9pm Chess Club 6-8pm
MON 1/9	TUES 1/10	WED 1/11	TH 1/12	MON - FRI
Cameron & the Claytones 6-8pm Baltimore-based Acoustic Duo	Open Mic with Tom Woycheck-Gleason 6:30-9pm	Songwriters in the Round - Kim Eaton, Tom Prasada Rao, L. Hollyfield & Tahlele 7-9pm	Reggie Right Eye and the Missing Pieces 7-9pm	Happy Hour 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

It's easy to become a member or renew your membership.
GO to www.newdealcafe.com. Click on BECOME A MEMBER. Follow us on Facebook.

Obituaries

Gerald Greenbaum
Gerald “Gerry” Greenbaum, 77, one of the original teachers at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 1976, died after a fall at his home in Columbia. Gerry taught math for four decades until his retirement several years ago. He not only taught, but was the It’s Academic sponsor for many years, working with the best and brightest students.
Originally from New York, Gerry loved his family, music and was passionate about the New York Yankees (even getting to meet Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle). He is survived by Phyllis, his wife of 54 years, and two adult children, Josh (Suzanne) and Tracy.

Terri Dunahay



Terri Goodman Dunahay
Terri Goodman Dunahay died peacefully on November 13, 2022, after living with cancer for seven years. She died as she lived, on her own terms, at home with two of her sisters and her cat by her side. She was 68 years old.
To include all of Terri’s academic and career accomplishments would take up an entire page of this newspaper, so here is the Reader’s Digest version. Terri graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara with a B.A. in aquatic biology. She then

went on to earn a PhD in molecular/cellular biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. While living in Boulder, Terri was a staff scientist at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Her work there led to being awarded a U.S. patent for transforming a type of algae into a biofuel (quite ahead of her time).
She later moved to Maryland after accepting a fellowship with the U.S. government, and subsequently decided to make Greenbelt her permanent home while working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the rest of her career. Terri rarely stopped moving (except for her much-loved naps in the sun). She tended to fit more fun into a weekend than most people do in a month. She loved traveling the globe with friends, the theater, kayaking, hiking, contra dancing and Hugh Jackman. After retiring from the USDA, Terri volunteered at Food and Friends, a local food bank, at Signature Theatre and at the Baltimore Aquarium, which turned out to be one of the greatest joys in her life.
Her kind spirit and love for life was infectious to those lucky enough to have known her. Terri loved her family fiercely, and going to California for Thanksgiving each November was one of the highlights of every year. She created a community of friends wherever she was, be it at work or at play. Terri’s effect on others

was brought out in technicolor after she died, when, among others, her mail carrier, house cleaners and financial advisor all cried upon hearing the news.
Terri was predeceased by her mother, Jeanne Goodman, her father, Kenneth Goodman, her brother, Gregg Goodman and her brother-in-law, Russ Long. Terri is survived by her sisters, Kathryn Ingraham, Karen Cook, Lori Long, Linda Puzifferro and her brother Jeff Goodman and his wife, Faye. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and -nephews, her ex-husband, Pat Dunahay, with whom she maintained a close friendship, and her beloved cats Riley and Blanche.
In true Terri fashion, she donated her body to science. In one to two years when her family receives her ashes, friends and family will take a trip to Colorado to scatter her ashes on her favorite mountaintop when the wildflowers are in full bloom.
In the last few weeks of Terri’s life, she often said that when she pictured death, all she saw was the color blue. So, in honor of Terri, raise a glass, wear something blue, eat peanut butter directly out of the jar, watch Hamilton and listen to Hugh Jackman sing a song. Donations may be made in Terri’s name to the Baltimore Aquarium or a hospice.

Shane Doyle




Shane Doyle
Former Greenbelt resident and Eleanor Roosevelt High School graduate, Shane Doyle, died unexpectedly on December 28, 2022, at the age of 34. He is survived by his mother Harise Poland-Wright and stepfather Dennis Wright.
Shane received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, where he graduated magna cum laude and in the

top 6 percent of his class.
He joined Brown, Goldstein & Levy in September 2022 to represent clients in wrongful conviction and police misconduct cases. Prior to joining BGL, Shane clerked for Judge John M. Maloney on the Circuit Court for Montgomery County.
While his untimely passing was devastating, he managed to make some important contributions in his field. Shane worked to achieve justice for all. Close to his heart was the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project; donations can be made at exonerate.org.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.
You write it or we will if you prefer. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

“...love is the cause of the existence of all phenomena and... the absence of love is the cause of disintegration or non-existence. Love is the conscious bestowal of God, the bond of affiliation in all phenomena.” – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation



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Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

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Saturday morning services at 10:00am
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Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 8, 2023 at 3:00 pm

After the Principles

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole

What happens when our free and responsible search for truth and meaning exposes the limitations of our core Principles? In this creedless faith, we can change the text so that it comes closer to our values and aspirations. This has been the work of UUA’s Article II Study Commission, and last fall, they shared with us a draft of what might come after the Principles. Back in November, Ebony Contreras offered an initial exploration of what might be changing; join us this Sunday for more on ways that this faith might be learning and growing along with us.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

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FOOD BANK WEDNESDAY @11am-1pm
Sunday | 2nd and 4th @ 12pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE @10am

THRESHING FLOOR @9pm on 2nd Fridays

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY ON Tuesday @ 7:30pm
Zoom ID: 874-0017-0242
Password: 828469

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Psalm 59:16b



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MCFcc.org

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• Sunday Mass:
◦ Sat vigil 5pm*
◦ Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
• Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

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Heartfelt sympathies to the friends and family of Terri Dunahay, longtime Greenbelter and molecular biologist who died on November 13.

Condolences to the family and friends of Shane Doyle who died on December 28. Shane was a News Review staffer in 2011 and, as an 11-year-old, was one of 100 young artists from around the country whose drawings of chicken nuggets were displayed in an art exhibition in New York City sponsored by the Perdue chicken producers.

Our sympathies also to friends, family and former students of Gerald "Gerry" Greenbaum, one of ERHS's original math faculty.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

City Notes

Street Maintenance/Special Details repaired a large sinkhole on Mandan Road.

Horticulture/Parks removed hazardous limbs and collected three loads of curbside leaf piles. Refuse/Recycling collected 27.94 tons of refuse and 12.31 tons of recyclables.

Building Maintenance repaired a broken water pipe at McDonald Field.

Sustainability/Environmental held annual Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan training for all Public Works crew members.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center's holiday program entertained students during winter break. At the Community Center, gym and dance studio floors were resurfaced and Public Works installed a brighter exterior light at the News Review entrance, finishing requested security upgrades.

The Aquatic & Fitness Center hosted county swift water training and completed certification renewals for lifeguard training and first aid/CPR/AED.

Arts staff secured a Maryland Arts Council Relief Fund grant for \$61,839.02.

Creative Kids Camp video links were sent to participating families as a holiday gift and camp promotion.



A beaver scurries along by the Lake.



A bluejay sits by a fallen branch at the Lake.



A rabbit hides among fallen leaves.
- Photos by Kathryn Beard



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION
Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
Presentations
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Proclamation
- City Solicitor Legal Opinion on the Process of Amending the City Charter
* Minutes of Council Meetings
- Statement of Record - December 14, 2022
- Administrative Reports
* Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

OTHER BUSINESS
- Council Discussion of Potential Bond Bill Requests
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholders
* Board of Appeals Variance Resolution 22-008-V

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 9-13

Monday, January 9 at 7:10 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**

Tuesday, January 10 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Fire Department Invited, Identification of Community Forum and Survey Priorities, Draft Report to Council re: Recommendations for Police Procedure Reform and Related Issues*

Wednesday, January 11, **NO MEETING**

Thursday, January 12 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT RECREATION'S SUMMER CAMP GUIDE 2023 WILL BE POSTED ON JANUARY 10.

Registration begins February 6 for residents, February 13 for non-residents.

The City of Greenbelt is currently hiring for the City Manager position. To apply, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

GREENBELTMD

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Community Stakeholder Survey: Greenbelt City Manager

January 2023 | Survey

www.greenbeltmd.gov/survey

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

FREE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
CARES currently has daytime hours available from 9 am-4 pm for individual counseling for ages 16+. Waitlist available for evening hours starting at 5 pm.
Call (301) 345-6660 or email cares@greenbeltmd.gov.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS
Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) is offering support groups online or in-person beginning January 2023. Registration required.
In-person: Every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6-7 pm at Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East
Online: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2-3 pm.
Call (240) 542-2029 or email sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov.

Greenbelt ARPA Funds Assistance Programs Update (as of 12/5/22)

Rent and Utility Assistance
· 396 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$1,958,253.04

Mortgage and HOA fee Assistance
· 17 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$61,856.17

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION ¡GRATIS! DISTRIBUCION DE VERDURAS

Thursday, January 19	jueves, 19 de enero
1 - 3 pm	1 - 3 pm
Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road	Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM AND PAINT RECYCLING
Saturday, January 28 from 9 am until 12 pm
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road

Paint Recycling \$5 per container

NO Alkaline Batteries or CFLs
NO Tube TVsQuestions?

For more information, call (301) 474-8004.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY OF SERVICE

JANUARY 16, 10 AM - 1 PM
BUDDY ATTICK PARK

Be a part of the community effort to protect trees from beaver herbivory and invasive vines at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to place wire caging around the trunks of native trees to protect them from beaver herbivory and remove invasive vines

Register by email at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov.

BECA DE EDUCACIÓN GREENBELT

El período de solicitud está abierto del 15 de diciembre de 2022 al 31 de marzo de 2023.

GREENBELT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Application period open December 15, 2022 until March 31, 2023.

Scan here to apply!

¡Escanea aquí para aplicar!

For more information visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

LOOK BACK continued from page 1

Council Organizes Reparations Commission

Many residents of Greenbelt were surprised and excited when a Reparations Commission was approved by voters in the 2021 city election. Surprised, because until then, little had indicated that a majority of residents were interested in the topic. Excited, because it was evident that many people wanted to learn more about the original people and history of this city and whether reconciliation and repair were necessary.

The city council took up the mantle and held two worksessions to organize the Reparations Commission. They designed a long application that would provide them with pertinent information, such as where candidates resided in Greenbelt and for how long, their age, gender and personal experiences. Councilmembers designed six questions to be asked of each interviewee. The interview process was the same as for any of the current residents appointed to existing city committees and advisory boards. Public announcements were made, and deadlines were established twice to ensure a large enough applicant pool. The council deliberation process to select commissioners was intense.

All 31 applicants were interviewed. A balanced and diverse group was appointed, with two alternates named in the event that any commission member needs to be replaced. A week after the names were made public, commission members received an official appointment email from the city and a week later an official letter.

Council took on this mandate, designed a process and delivered on the voters' request. The commission will begin meetings in 2023.

Storm Rages throughout Greenbelt

On Tuesday July 12, at 6:15 p.m., strong winds hit Greenbelt, knocking down hundreds of trees, breaking utility poles in half, scattering the city with live wires and debris and causing large amounts of damage to houses, cars and apartments.

A tree and downed wires block Crescent and Hillside Roads after the July 12 storm.

"I've never seen anything like it in the 33 years I've worked here, through hurricanes and different storms," said Brian Townsend, assistant director of Greenbelt Public Works.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

Fortunately, no injuries were reported. But the storm left huge trees lying across roads and paths. Residents lost their belongings to rain when trees knocked through ceilings. Grocery stores lost food to unfrozen freezers. Families lost daycare as camps closed. And everyone became uncomfortable without air conditioning.

Power was restored after a few days to the parts of the city that had lost power. Cleanup took a while longer. Most of the roads were cleared quickly, but Greenbelt Park has not yet fully reopened and some houses are still decorated with tarps.

But the cleanup isn't the whole story. When the power goes out on a Tuesday, it's a big deal for the News Review. Usually, the Tuesday night crew does the final edits and designs the front page. For this week, edits were declared done and the front page was designed by candlelight. The next morning, the layout team decamped to places with electricity. They worked from McDonalds and Starbucks, and then, eventually from the porch of a staffer who had power and internet. The newspaper, our responsibility, went to press, even with a storm and high water.

The James Webb Space Telescope

Greenbelt is home to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, which led a large international team to design, construct, test, launch and operate the James Webb Space Telescope. Webb was launched on Christmas Day, 2021, into an orbit one million miles from the Earth. Webb is arguably the most expensive pure science project in the history of the United States. Many Greenbelt residents have worked on Webb during the 25-year history of the project.

Six months after launch, the Webb team brought out the first images, including the faintest infrared picture ever taken, in a White House ceremony that included President Biden and Vice President Harris. The first image appeared on the front pages of newspapers around the world.

In its first six months of scientific operations, Webb has already

See LOOK BACK, page 7

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the Library's schedule are posted at pgcmls.info/alerts.

The Greenbelt Library offers Sidewalk Service seven days a week until 4:30 p.m. for customers to safely pick up items from the table placed outside the upper-level entrance.

Passport Services

Greenbelt Library serves as a U.S. passport acceptance facility. Applications are accepted by appointment only; schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting pgmls.info/passport-services. All applicants regardless of age must be present at their appointment, with minors accompanied by their parent(s)/guardian(s). Families with multiple applicants must schedule separate appointments for each applicant.

Passport acceptance service hours at the Library: Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 1 to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reading Challenge

In conjunction with the Washington Wizards basketball team, the county library system once again offers its Winter Reading Challenge, through March 31. Activities include reading, watching Wizards games, attending virtual library programs and staying active and engaged with the library and the Washington Wizards. Readers who complete the challenge will be entered into a raffle to win a variety of prizes. Books to read for children in various age groups (K-2, grades 3-5 and grades 6-8) will be featured. Visit pgcmls.info for more information and to register for the Winter Reading Challenge.


Free Puppet Show In College Park

Blue Sky Puppets will present a free puppet show on Saturday, January 14, 11 a.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park. Rufus, a lost and lonely dog finds friendship and learns about acceptance and inclusion. Sponsored by College Park Arts Exchange, cpae.org

Remembering Greenbelters Who Died in 2022

Compiled by Sue Krofchik, Elisabeth Kevorkian and Ann Bauman

- Joann Louise Pennfeather Alexander, 92, October 11, 2022
- Lenore Algaze, 78, February 22, 2022
- Elizabeth "Beth" Anderson, 69, July 25, 2022
- Richard Perry Backstrom, 77, January 25, 2022
- Audrey Boushell, 85, April 21, 2022
- Brenda Mae Hindermarsh Brown, 79, September 26, 2022
- Roger Mansfield Brown, 82, October 23, 2022
- Kenneth Everett Brown, 78, February 4, 2022
- Ursula Margarete Hoffman Dobson, 96, March 23, 2022
- Kathy Siehl DonBullian, 71, September 1, 2022
- Shane Doyle, 34, December 28, 2022
- Terri Goodman Dunahay, 68, November 13, 2022
- Lalherliani "Heri" Sailo Farrell, 60, October 24, 2022
- Jennifer "Jen" Farrell, 38, January 7, 2022
- Honorable Tawanna Gaines, 70, November 12, 2022
- Sonia Garin, 102, October 31, 2022
- Warren "Hoot" Gibson, 73, December 25, 2021
- William Howard "Bub" or "Bill" Goodall, 71, January 25, 2022
- Gerald "Gerry" Greenbaum, 77, December 8, 2022
- Zivko Grubisic, 78, October 15, 2022
- Albina Elizabeth Hanyok, 93, June 22, 2022
- William E. "Bill" Hatch, 82, February 9, 2022
- Irene Hensel, 89, May 24, 2022
- Lillian "Lee" Hodges, 89, March 2, 2022
- Veronica Hughs, 70, August 9, 2022
- Stephen Griffin Hunt, 56, May 6, 2022
- Barbara Ann Jones, 66, August 24, 2022
- Rhonda Jeanette Kaltsubis, 64, June 8, 2022
- Daniel Kennedy, 86, November 8, 2022
- Burton Kerr, 95, June 29, 2022
- Janet "Jan" Shade Kuhn, 94, May 13, 2022
- Patricia Holly Kurburski Routt, 78, April, 2022
- Dorothea Leslie, 96, February 4, 2022
- Carol J. Lewis, 92, January 7, 2022
- Beatrice "Bea" McDay, 102, February 24, 2022
- Richard Welton McMullin, 73, November 11, 2022
- Roberta Chiavetta McNamara, 78, May 3, 2022
- Patrick O'Brien, 90, January 17, 2022
- Jim Olson, 70, February 20, 2022
- Monica Pantaleoni, 97, July 2, 2022
- Frank Pearlman, 90, November 8, 2022
- Peter "Petey" Rocco Renzi, 39, April 25, 2022
- John G. Richardson, Sr., 87, December 19, 2021
- Doris Ann Densham Roberts, 95, November 30, 2022
- Mary Hasslinger Rogers, 70, January 7, 2022
- Michael Rousseau, 62, June 27, 2022
- Mona Eichelbaum Schlossberg, 91, June 22, 2022
- Jean Fields Smith, 80, December 22, 2022
- Betty Jo Smith, 86, May 29, 2022
- Eveline Ursula Soenmez, 92, June 20, 2022
- Gisèle Laplante Spiegelthal, 90, February 28, 2022
- Patricia "Patti" Morris Brothers Stange, 68, October 1, 2022
- William "Bill" F. Stoddard, Jr., 73, January 1, 2022
- James "Jim" Sturdivant, 86, September 21, 2022
- Thomas Van Valkenburgh, 79, May 27, 2022
- David Michael "Mike" Wilson, 63, January 9, 2022
- Paula Josephine Windsor, 84, September 27, 2022
- Glenn Jeffrey Wolf, 69, February 17, 2022
- Karen Jeanne Zevallos, 60, June 20, 2022
- Karianne Adaline Zevallos, 19, March 21, 2022
- Murray Zitver, 68, June 15, 2022



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LOOK BACK continued from page 6

found the most distant galaxies ever seen. The galaxies are so far away that the light that Webb detects has traveled for 13.5 billion years of the 13.8 billion years since the Big Bang, allowing scientists to study early galaxies that formed under very different conditions than we see today. Webb has made the first detection of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of an exoplanet, and has examined the interactions between giant stars and the planets that are forming near them.

Webb’s scientific journey is just beginning. A nearly perfect launch left the spacecraft with enough fuel to maintain its orbit and operations for as long as 20 years. The Greenbelters who worked on Webb, the scientists who interpret the Webb data and NASA’s fans around the world can all look forward to many more discoveries in the years to come.

Police Reform

Council kicked off the year by passing Resolution 2096-2 directing changes to the police department’s General Orders, largely based upon Councilmember Colin Byrd’s proposed police reform legislation. The police department began revising the orders, but in September the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) discovered that the department was not working from the version of the resolution passed by council and documented the variances. After investigation, the city manager reported that the substitution was due to an error by city staff in processing the resolution.

At year’s end, these discrepancies were not yet corrected in the General Orders. Nine provisions of Byrd’s proposal that council and the chief of police reviewed were not initially resolved. In addition, some provisions of the city resolution had been overtaken by changes to state and county law.

It appears that no further city legislation will be required as council appeared satisfied with the department’s proposed approach to the remaining provisions. However, PSAC remains concerned about ensuring that the correct text from the council resolution makes its way correctly into the General Orders.

ARPA City Funding

Sum of Project Cost by Project Category	
Project Category	SUM of Project Cost
household-needs	\$6,588,200
infrastructure	\$10,154,500
mental-health-resources	\$1,528,549
public-safety	\$2,858,751
small-business-assistance	\$1,750,000
Grand Total	\$22,880,000

CHART CREATED BY DEB DANIEL

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were given to cities by Congress primarily to address the negative economic impact caused by the Covid public health emergency. Cities have until December 31, 2024, to obligate funds and until December 31, 2026, to spend funds. However, with changes from the 2022 election, Congress may consider calling back some of these funds. In an interview with Route-Fifty (route-fifty.com), Representative Jason Smith, the top Republican on the House Budget Committee said, “There’s going to be some aggressive oversight, both of this administration and for states and local municipalities.”

The city started the process of funding ARPA projects with a community survey. The survey involved stakeholder focus groups, three community input meetings and 344 web survey respondents. From this survey came approximately 50 priority projects. The city has created a sophisticated ARPA funding spreadsheet (engagegreenbelt.org) to track ARPA spending projects.

Charts pulled from data on the spreadsheet show that the city has obligated over \$22 million and spent approximately \$500,000 of those obligated dollars as of December 25, 2022. To create charts, visit the website and click on the EXPLORE button in the lower right corner. When EXPLORE opens, enter any inquiry to get similar charts (the inquiries for the charts will show above the chart). The ARPA Spending website is created and maintained by James Wisniewski, public information specialist for the city.

Greenbelters Win Recognition

Three Greenbelters were recognized this year for their contributions to science. All are associated with NASA and all three find the time to also serve this community. Hats off to them all.

Gardner

The launch and deployment of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) was a long-awaited goal for NASA and a significant team member is Dr. Jonathan Gardner, active in Greenbelt as a member of this newspaper and other local organizations.

See LOOK BACK, page 8

Our Newest Councilmembers

Councilmember Kristen Weaver Brings Fresh Face, Valuable Skills

by Bode Ramsay

A gentle breeze flows through the Three Sisters Garden as Kristen Weaver sits, listening to one of her peer’s original poems. The monthly poetry event that takes place in Schrom Hills Park serves as both an escape from a busy work life and an insight into the issues of the city for Weaver, the current mayor pro tem. It’s one of a few events Weaver attends periodically, providing an opportunity to make connections with the people she serves as a city councilmember.

Weaver grew up in Greeley, Colo., completed a bachelor’s degree in computer science and psychology, and subsequently earned a master’s degree in education with a minor in mathematics at the University of Denver.

She moved to Greenbelt in 2015 and has just completed her first year in office after she



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Councilmember Kristen Weaver

was elected in 2021, becoming the first councilmember from the Greenbelt Station neighborhood. She received the second highest number of votes, an unprecedented feat for a first-time

candidate, according to some Greenbelt residents. “I think this is unheard of, certainly in the 40-some years I’ve been in Greenbelt,” said Hally Ahearn, who served as Weaver’s campaign treasurer.

Despite this, Weaver denied herself some of the credit when asked about the achievement, pointing to the long-tenured councilmembers who stepped away that year, even though she beat out four incumbents in the election. “People were ready for a fresh face,” Weaver said.

Computer Science

Although there might seem to be little connection between a computer science major and a politician, Weaver sees her years of coding differently. She believes that the planning and attention to detail required by her computer science courses have been helpful

See **WEAVER**, page 12

MAILMAN continued from page 1

street and know that he was coming.

Tony was much loved by Greenbelters. Reynolds summed it up: “Tony has been our dedicated, heroic, fabulous and proficient mail carrier for 36 years.” Debbie Coulter presented him with a picture she had painted of him in his uniform standing in front of Greenbelt row

houses. The painting is titled Thank you for always doing a First Class Job. Tony was also presented with a crown inscribed The Legend has Retired.

A man of few words, Tony expressed thanks to his wife and family

for allowing him to retire on his own terms. The family is moving to Delaware where he plans on relaxing, at least for a while.



PHOTO BY EVA CHOPER



PHOTO BY MARY MOIEN

Residents of Woodland Way celebrate Tony Schiavone’s retirement. Pictured from left are Mary Salemme, Tony, Lesley Kash, Anne Salemme, Isabelle Gournay and Cass Cooney.

Residents of Woodland Hills posted signs in their yards celebrating Tony Schiavone’s retirement.



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LOOK BACK continued from page 7

His British-born wife Anne (the newspaper’s layout designer) and their family also comprise aptly-named Transatlantic Crossing, a toe-tapping band that plays at many Greenbelt functions.

For his work on JWST, Gardner, head of Observational Cosmology at Goddard Space Flight Center, was awarded the 2022 Lindsay Prize for outstanding contribution to space science. The citation quotes his “exceptional scientific leadership” of the JWST science teams.

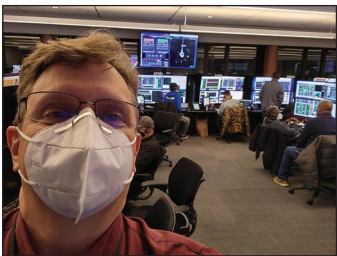


PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Jon Gardner takes a selfie in the JWST Mission Control Center in Baltimore on January 1, 2022.

Bonnell

One of the News Review’s two expert photo editors is Dr. Jerry Bonnell, a University of Maryland astronomer based at Goddard. He and Dr. Robert Nemiroff, formerly of Goddard, won the prestigious International Astronomical Union 2022 first prize for outreach for their 25-year joint production of NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day. Bonnell and Nemiroff’s website debuted in the early days of the web and retains its original simple but appealing format, inspiring books and multiple satellite sites that translate the pages into over 20 languages. Bonnell and wife Letty, also a News Review writer, travelled to Korea to receive the prize.



PHOTO BY LETTY BONNELL

Jerry Bonnell, winner of the IAU Astronomy Outreach Prize

Fischer

Dr. Jim Fischer, now retired from Goddard, was feted for services to technology achieved during his career. He is active in the Greenbelt Community Foundation and the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Alliance and writes occasionally for this newspaper. He pioneered using ordinary and inexpensive computer components in parallel to provide exceptionally high-speed computing for applications like atmospheric modeling and weather forecasting. His Beowulf cluster implementation, which alleviated the input/output crimp on processor speed, was inducted into the Space Foundation’s Space Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colo., in April 2022.



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Jim Fischer with his award for services to technology

Emancipation Day Celebrated

The Emancipation Day celebration was a successful community event. Despite the unusually warm November day, the Community Center gym was packed. The Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee hosted the program. Dr. Frank Smith, director of the African American Civil War Museum, gave a short but educational lecture. He paid homage to the 200,000 brave African American men who served in the Civil War and gave a peek into that typical experience.

Members of FREED, the Female Re-Enactors of Distinction donning their 19th-century attire, gave the audience a glimpse into Civil-War-era tensions, real-life experiences and the emotions of people of color.

Community members learned about lesser-known local historical figures. The program showcased the bravery, resilience and wit necessary to survive a tumultuous time in American history.

Theft from Autos in 2022

Most crime in Greenbelt is “theft from auto,” targeted against unattended vehicles, locked or unlocked, on the street or in parking lots or driveways. The most common type of theft from auto is “smash and grab,” when the thief breaks a window and removes personal property from the car. Many times the window is smashed, and the thief rummages through the car but nothing of value is taken.

Theft from auto also includes the removal of parts of the car. The biggest trend of 2022 was the removal of the steering wheel airbag from Honda Accords. This type of theft usually had multiple occurrences most weeks.

Greenbelt’s concentration of Toyota Priuses makes the city a prime target for catalytic converter theft. Stolen catalytic converters contain valuable metals, including platinum. In 2022, catalytic converters were also stolen from other types of vehicles, even though hybrid cars offer more valuable metal to the thief. In terms of trends, this type of theft was on the decline, especially compared to steering wheel airbag theft.

One of the most striking kinds of theft from auto is when a vehicle has been put up on blocks, and all four wheels stolen in the middle of the night. License plates and handicap parking hangtags are also targeted for theft. In Greenbelt, 164 vehicles were stolen – the most common makes being the Hyundai Elantra and Sonata – with 145 recovered. All carjacked vehicles were recovered.

News Review reporters process the weekly crime report provided by Hannah Glasgow, public information officer for the Greenbelt Police Department.

See LOOK BACK, page 12

REFORM continued from page 1

three days of a request related to a use of force incident. PSAC proposed a tiered deadline structure.

Captain Tim White reported that the department fulfills requests in the order in which they are received, with most completed within one week. The department has a single person responsible for handling and redacting the footage. Many of the requests are from attorneys and insurance companies. The department proposed a 15-business-day time frame for citizens’ requests and 30 calendar days for requests from attorneys, insurance companies and other commercial entities. The 30-calendar-day deadline is established by state law.

In response to questions from council, Bowers said high profile incidents would be treated differently with the aim to release the footage sooner. For cases involving a fatality, the state takes the video and the city cannot release it. State policy is to release such video within 10 days.

Bowers noted that redaction is not easy. The staffer must blur faces of individuals not involved in the incident, license plates, etc. It can take two hours, he said, to redact a 15-minute video; an hour-long video could be an all-day process. White noted that procedures are different for videos involving juveniles. Some legal issues are still to be resolved.

Stop and Frisk

Byrd had several proposals regarding the city’s policy regarding stopping and frisking individuals. In one, he proposed that supervisors review all incidents where officers stopped and frisked someone. The department proposed linking this requirement to the Firearms Search report to allow the department to ensure it can track the reviews.

A separate Byrd recommendation called for expressly banning all stop-and-frisk tactics that have been declared unconstitutional. PSAC took a different approach, recommending inserting definitions of reasonable suspicion, proactively patrol and aggressively patrol into General Order 620 and providing examples. Bowers proposed that language referring to aggressive and proactive patrol be removed from General Order 620. He noted that a definition of reasonable suspicion is included elsewhere in the General Orders. In addition, General Order 625 addresses adhering to the constitution including investigative detentions.

Byrd also proposed expressly prohibiting stopping people solely based on race and gender. PSAC recommended that the General Orders specify that the criterion for frisking someone is a suspicion that the person is armed.

Bowers noted that General Order 620 already prohibits stopping a person based on race, gender, sex, national origin or sexual or religious preferences. In addition, General Order 625 states that to frisk a person the officer must “fear the individual may be armed and dangerous to him/her or others.”

Finally, Byrd recommended that the department explore the feasibility of reporting on the number of stop-and-frisks including race, gender, age, place of residence and whether the person was subsequently arrested.

Bowers stated that the city

does not have a system, nor will it that can create reports of this type. The data does not flow in a way in the system that would allow such a tabulation.

The department expects to have new data dashboards on its website by the end of January that will provide additional data to residents.

Citations

Byrd suggested officers provide cited individuals with a card in English and Spanish, explaining that the traffic court has the authority to dismiss or reduce the ticket and/fine. Bowers noted that the State District Court explains this information on the citation form. As this is a legal document, he said the department should not create a separate set of directions that may conflict with the state form. The state form, however, is only available in English, although a search by Councilmember Kristen Weaver reported that there are videos on the state website that contain this information in both languages and suggested officers carry cards with the links.

Detention

Byrd recommended banning the detention of a civilian not suspected of a specific crime. Bowers is proposing no additional action as the topic is covered in General Order 602, which states that police may conduct an investigative detention “only when there is reasonable and articulable suspicion that a crime has been, is being or is about to be committed.”

CALEA vs. State

Bowers noted that he is not implementing the provision of state legislation that prohibits the police from taking anonymous complaints. The accrediting agency, CALEA, requires departments to take anonymous complaints. Bowers said that he has chosen to comply with CALEA saying this action is about accountability and transparency

City Board?

Councilmember Judith Davis noted that giving municipalities the option to create their own accountability boards is a Maryland Municipal League (MML) legislative priority. Bowers cautioned that this might not be a good idea. Such boards are expensive as they must be chaired by an administrative law judge, at a cost of about \$500 per hour. Davis noted that the main driver behind the MML proposal was the delay implicit in using the county board. She suggested that municipalities could band together, such as the city already does with its Four Cities Coalition.

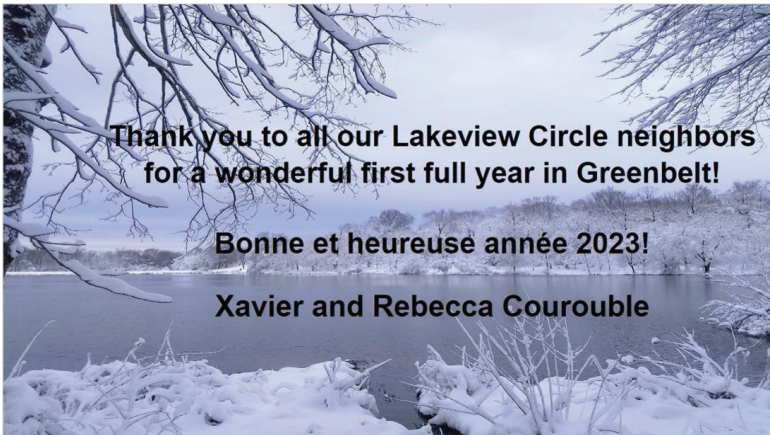
Staffing

Bowers reported that the department could soon be at or slightly above its authorized number of sworn officers. He noted that when he was hired, the workforce was 70 percent white. Now it is about 40 percent white. Ten to 12 of the officers now on staff are Spanish speaking. In addition, the department subscribes to a language line service that can provide interpretation for interactions with speakers of other languages.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 26, 2022-January 1, 2023. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Carjacking Arrest, Vehicle Recovery

On December 30 at approximately 9:55 p.m., Greenbelt Police officers located a stolen vehicle connected to an armed carjacking in Washington, D.C. Officers recovered three handguns, 125 grams of marijuana, and a digital scale, and arrested three men, 22-year-old Titus Daytawn Kitrell, 20-year-old Rashad Kavon Johnson and 19-year-old Nihleeq Rector.

Armed Person

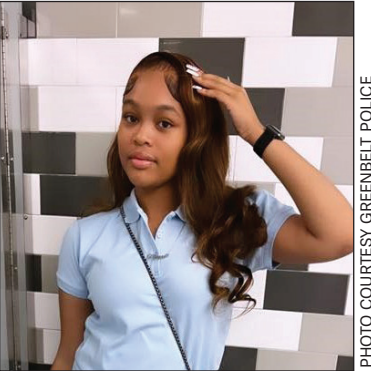
On December 27 at 6:59 p.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a victim received threats over social media.

Break-in

On December 27 at 11:51 p.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, security saw two people enter a vacant unit, officers responded and located boys, a 15-year-old and a 17-year-old. Both were taken into custody and then released to their parents. On December 27 at 1:39 a.m. near 400 Ridge Road, a 22-year-old woman was arrested for fourth-degree burglary after entering a residence without permission. The resident did not know the woman.

Missing Persons

On December 31 at 4:02 a.m. near Parkway, 16-year-old Morgan Patricia Allen (Black, female, 5'5', 125 lbs) was last seen in the



Morgan Allen is reported missing.

on Parkway on December 31 at approximately 12:30 a.m. wearing a white T-shirt, black shorts and a black scarf around her head. The critical factor is age. If anyone comes into contact with her, please contact GPD at 301-474-7200.

On December 28 at 11:01 a.m. near 9200 Springhill Lane, 21-year-old Miracle Stokes was reported missing. No critical factors.

Neglect of a Minor

On December 27 at 4:54 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a young child was left unattended in a parked-and-locked vehicle in 30-degree weather. Mother was issued a criminal citation for neglect of a minor.

Commercial Theft

On December 28 at 7:55 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road; December 27 at 1:29 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road; December 31 at 1:34 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road; and December 27 at 2:37 p.m. near 5300 North Center Drive, package theft.

DUI Arrests

December 27 at 3:17 a.m. near Edmonston Road and Breezewood Drive; December 30 at 9:30 p.m. near 6300 Breezewood Drive; and December 31 at 11:51 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Cherrywood Lane.

Found

On December 27 at 5:40 p.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court, officers found a stolen gray Huffy bicycle.

Fraud

On December 27 near 7800 Emilys Way, EBT fraud; December 30 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, check fraud.

Theft

On December 27 near Parkway, personal property was reported stolen from a storage locker.

Vandalism

On December 27 at 3:26 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a car was vandalized with scratches.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

During this week, 14 vehicles were stolen, of which six were Hyundais and four were Kias. On December 27 near 7500 Mandan Road, a red 2021 Hyundai Santa Fe (Md. plate: 8ER2848); near 5800 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2017 silver Hyundai Elantra (Md. plate: 2FF1251); near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a 2012 black Dodge Journey (Md. plate: 40853CK); near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a black Mercedes GLA (Texas plate: PMY1522) stolen after being left unlocked with a key in the center console. On December 29 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2008 orange Chevy HHR (Fla. plate: PJWJ86); near 9100 Edmonston Terrace, a 2012 gray Hyundai Elantra (Md. plate: 3DB285); near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a 2020 black Kia Sportage (Md. plate: 7CC3921).

On December 30 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a blue Hyundai Elantra (Md. plate: 5FB5557). On December 31 near Hanover Parkway and Ora Glen Drive, a white 2010 Infiniti QX56 (Md. plate: 3EJ5243); near 6200 Breezewood Drive, a 2010 blue Hyundai Elantra (Md. plate); near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a 2020 gray Kia Sportage (Ohio plate: JCK-2191). On January 1 near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a 2016 Kia Optima (Md. plate: 4EH9250); near 6100 Breezewood Court a 2015 Kia Optima (Md. plate: 1ES3631); near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a black 2021 Hyundai Tucson (Md. plate: 9EP0196).

Theft from Auto

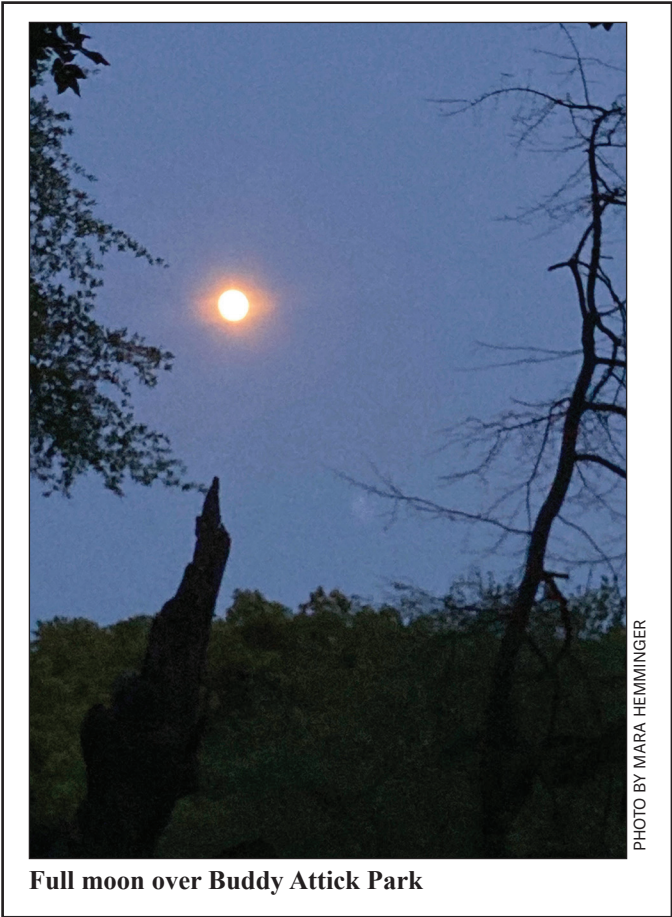
In five incidents, tools were stolen from autos: On December

28 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, window broken, power tools stolen; December 29 near 7800 Mandan Road, window broken, power tools stolen; December 29 near 8000 Mandan Road, window broken, plumbing tools stolen; December 31 near 5800 Cherrywood Terrace, plumbing tools stolen; December 31 near 8000 Mandan Road, tools stolen.

Steering wheel airbags were stolen from Hondas: a 2019 Odyssey and a 2007 CRV on December 30 near 6000 Springhill Drive and a 2021 Pilot on December 30 near 5800 Cherrywood Terrace.

On December 29 near 7800 Mandan Road, the front passenger-side door handle was stolen from a 2014 Kia Sorrento. On December 27 near 9100 Edmonston Terrace, a window was broken but nothing taken. On December 30 near 6200 Springhill Court, a window was broken.

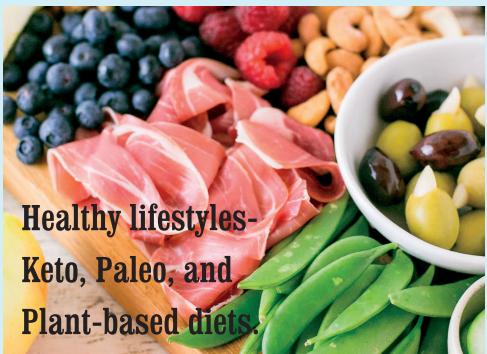
On December 31 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a 2012 Kia Optima had a window broken and ignition damaged. On January 1 near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a window was broken, car rummaged through but nothing taken.



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The Constant Yield Tax Rate Continues to Sow Confusion

by Cathie Meetre

The City of Greenbelt has requested that the state legislature create an explanation of the constant yield tax rate that residents can understand. In fact, it's one of five legislative priorities outlined in the City of Greenbelt's 2023 Legislative Program Summary. A visit to the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) website makes it obvious why this is needed. In their summary, the city states: "The current language is both duplicative and difficult to understand and each year our residents ask that we provide a more concise and clearly worded notice." One wonders if this request is related to the initially incorrect proposed rate in the city tax public notice published in the News Review in 2022 (since corrected in the online version).

Yield means the amount of money a tax produces for the government. Constant Yield arose when property owners upset about rising real estate taxes wanted to limit the total amount of money collected in real estate taxes to an amount that stayed the same year by year, a "constant yield," instead of automatically paying more as property values rose and the tax rate stayed the same. Constant yield forces the tax rate to change to keep tax revenue the same year to year.

A Confusing Name

The name coined for this is perhaps an unfortunate attempt at an acronym that ends up creating puzzlement. "Constant Yield Tax Rate" (CYTR = "Citer" "Kiter"?) tries to say too much in too few words and ends up a puzzler. It's really "the tax rate that makes the total tax collected in the coming year the same amount as collected LAST year (even if property values have changed)." The element that is "Constant" is the total tax collected (or yield). The element that is NOT constant is the tax rate. In Constant Yield, the tax rate adjusts to cancel out citywide changes in property values that would otherwise increase tax yield.

Example

Suppose a little city called Upper Bonkers, Md., collected \$2.5M total in real estate taxes in 2021 based on a tax rate of 2.5 percent and a total value of all the real estate in the city of \$100M.

Let's say that real estate values shoot up and the assessed total value of all the property in Upper Bonkers becomes \$110M – an increase of \$10M. If Upper Bonkers keeps its tax rate at 2.5

percent, it would collect \$2.75M in taxes – \$250,000 more than the previous year. But "constant yield" says the yield (amount collected) must stay at \$2.5M.

This question sounds a lot like a sixth-grade word problem (see box graphic). As in "What tax rate gives total taxes of \$2.5M when property is worth \$110M?"

The answer is ~2.27 percent – which is less than the previous 2.5 percent rate. Here's the math: Tax Rate = \$2.5M ÷ \$110M = ~2.27 percent.

Your Turn

What would the constant yield tax rate be if the new year's property value is \$120M up from \$100M last year and last year's tax yield was \$2.5M? Hint: use the box and keep reading for the answer.

Citywide vs. Individual

The constant yield tax rate applies to the jurisdiction as a whole. An individual's property may be assessed to have increased in value more or less than average, so their property taxes may go up (or down) even though the overall tax yield for the city remains the same. Property by property the tax yield may not be constant; it's only constant at the citywide scale.

Public Notice

If the tax rate is set to "constant yield" no action is required by the city (even if the rate changed). But if the rate will collect more than last year's yield by at least a certain amount, then a public notice must be issued and hearings set to discuss the proposed increase.

Last Year in Greenbelt

Last year, Greenbelt decided not to do constant yield but raised taxes and the tax rate was adjusted to make that happen. In consequence, there was a public notice and hearings.

Answer

In our example, total taxes were \$2.5M. The Constant Yield Tax Rate for a \$120M total property value would be 2.08 percent to keep the taxes raised at \$2.5M. If you got it right, congrats! It's only six more years until graduation. (Written by a former sixth grade math teacher.)

The usual question is what is the tax yield when you know rate and assessed value?

$$\text{Yield} = \text{Rate} \times \text{Assessed Value}$$

The question for constant yield is: I know the tax yield needed and the assessed value. What is the constant yield tax rate?

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Yield}}{\text{Assessed Value}}$$

CHART BY CATHIE MEETRE

Pantries Hit Hard by Holidays, Porch Food Collection Continues

Thanks to the generosity of Greenbelters, more than five tons of food were collected and distributed to needy residents in 2022.

Porch Greenbelt Food Collection is continuing its program to collect food in the month of January. There is a need to restock food pantry shelves that were relied upon even more than usual for the holiday season. The January collection schedule, which is different from previous months, is below:

Sunday, January 8. By 11 a.m. for 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway

Saturday, January 21. By 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

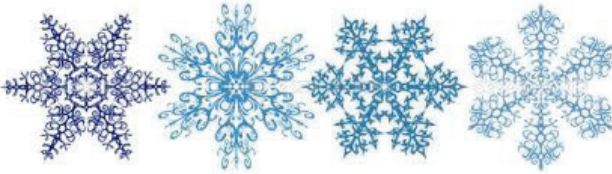
Sunday, January 22. By 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village, for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road, by 4 p.m. for 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

As a reminder, place donations in a box or bag labelled PORCH or RUAK on the front porch. If the front porch is not visible from the road, place donations in a location that can be seen. Also, make sure to check the expiration dates on all food items.

Porch Greenbelt continues to welcome volunteers who would expand food collection to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Porch Greenbelt, should email Robert Goldberg-Strasser at spreadruak@gmail.com.

The Porch community food collection program in Greenbelt also accommodates individuals who do not live in a neighborhood (including former Woodland Hill donors) with volunteer pickups. To make a nonperishable healthy food and/or personal hygiene product donation through Porch At Large (PAL), email an address to spreadruak@gmail.com by noon on Sunday, January 22. Leave the donation on the front porch in bags or boxes marked PORCH or RUAK and it will be picked up at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 22. If the front porch is not visible from the road, place donations in a location that can be seen. Also, make sure to check the expiration dates on all food items.

Greenbelters have a tradition of helping others in need. Some traditions are worth keeping.



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3 BR Brick Townhome Completely remodeled; more than \$80K in renovations. NEW opened kitchen, bath, flooring, paint & more. It's a showplace!

Charlestowne Village Single-level 1-br cond. on greenbelt lots! Parquet flooring throughout. Remodeled kit. With Stainless Steel appliances.

Townhome With Garage 2 BR GHI with attached garage just steps away from Roosevelt Center. Large 11'x17' MBR. Fenced backyard and more.

Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood flooring on both levels.

Coming Soon! True Greenbelt Lakefront. Call now for more information.

Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center

WEAVER continued from page 7

throughout her political career. Things like pseudo-code (meant to map out what your code is supposed to do) and debugging code (finding and fixing any errors in code, which oftentimes can be as small as one misplaced semicolon) teach applicable real-world skills to everyday problems in Weaver’s eyes. “Although I never actually was a computer programmer, I have never been sorry that I had that experience,” she said.

Leadership, Education

As for the art of leadership, it was not foreign to Weaver coming out of school.

She was awarded a leadership minor after participating in the University of Denver’s Pioneer Leadership Program, which focused on teaching the many qualities a good leader must have.

After spending some time working in elementary schools helping in the computer lab and tutoring students, she went back to school to complete a master’s degree in education and eventually taught in middle schools for eight years. Her time in education did not go without major effects on her political career either, according to Weaver.

“I think of myself as an introvert with some learned extrovert behaviors,” Weaver said. “Teaching made me less afraid of public speaking, because I was in front of people every day, like it or not.”

Political Start

One important detail about Weaver’s time at the University of Denver is that she demonstrated an early interest in government and politics. She served as a National Sciences, Math and Engineering representative and ran for student body president, finishing third.

“Even back then I did have an interest in low level politics and

serving in that public capacity,” she said.

A Strong Voice

Since her arrival in Greenbelt, Weaver has been an active member in the community, in particular with environmental causes. She has participated in groups and programs such as the Springhill Lake composting project. Weaver served on the Greenbelt Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) for three years before her campaign. She has stood strongly by her environmentalist views, which have been central to her political identity, promoting composting and solar energy.

“She’s definitely passionate and enthusiastic, and that comes through in the way that she talks about things in a very positive way,” said PRAB Chair Jake Chesnutt. “I really appreciate how she approaches [situations] to make sure that she fully understands what’s going on and has all that information and then again, makes the best decision.”

Weaver, as a councilmember, currently serves as liaison to PRAB and the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability. She hopes to continue to help the environment in various ways during her time on council, including providing clean energy sources for buildings, retrofitting older buildings with better insulation and improving electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Weaver also hopes “to be part of bringing neighborhoods together and building a stronger sense of community for all city residents.” (For more information, visit Weaver’s council webpage at greenbeltnmd.gov/government/city-council/kristen-l-k-weaver#!.)

Bode Ramsay is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.

Our Newest Councilmembers

City Councilmember Gordon Reflects on Political Journey

by Cooper Fojas

Since he was 10 years old, Ric Gordon knew he wanted a career in government. Thirty years later, just over a year into his first term as a Greenbelt city councilmember, Gordon reflected on the journey that saw his dreams come true.

Brandon Ricardo Gordon was born on September 19, 1982. A native of Capitol Heights, Gordon said the proximity to Washington, D.C., made it hard not to have an interest in government. “You can’t grow up in this area and not be in love with politics,” Gordon said. “1992, actually, was when I first ran for class president.”

Lyndon Hill Elementary was the first place Gordon would serve his peers. It was during this time that Gordon discovered his first role model and biggest fan, his grandmother, who helped him with his campaign speeches.

As Gordon’s education progressed, his desire to govern never wavered. He was class president again in middle school and was involved in student government all throughout high school. At Morris College in South Carolina, where Gordon earned his bachelor’s degree in political science, he was the president of the Student Government Association. “I love the service and the people’s work,” Gordon said. “I’ve been living it since I was a kid.”

For Gordon, finishing his studies does not mean he has stopped learning. He frequents YouTube to watch old political speeches and convention coverage that he says motivate him to keep working as hard as he can. Fellow councilmember and longest serving mayor in Greenbelt’s history, Judith Davis, verified Gordon’s commitment to learning.

“The person who does call me on a regular basis just to find out, ‘Why are we doing things this way? Can it be changed another way? Have we ever tried this?’ has been Mr. Gordon,” Davis said. “He listens extremely well. He watches, he learns.”

Gordon’s first campaign for city council was in 2017, but he did not get the votes he needed. He said he was too new to the town and the people were not ready to be represented by him. He put the council on hold and



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Councilmember Ric Gordon

decided to earn the town’s trust by getting involved.

Shortly after losing the 2017 election, Gordon founded Greenbelt Voices Rising, a nonprofit that preaches support and togetherness. Through multiple community events, Gordon built trust with Greenbelters and became a de facto liaison to city council. It was also during this time that Gordon met his future fiancée, Carla Johns, who struck up a friendship with Gordon and began volunteering at events.

While Gordon was content with his role in the Greenbelt community, everything changed in the year 2020, which he described as an explosion when it came to social justice. The pandemic, as well as the killing of George Floyd, Gordon said, changed the mood around town.

“A couple residents came to me after a march and they said, ‘You should run for council,’” Gordon said. “I knew these two people and they didn’t vote for me in 2017. To me, that was as big a sign as you can get.”

Gordon, who originally planned to run again in 2023, recognized that not only was he ready to serve Greenbelt, but the city was also ready to elect him. For Gordon and his fiancée Johns, the night of November 8, 2021, was one they’ll never forget.

“[Johns] literally had to force me to get up and go into the hall. Even though the results hadn’t come out yet, I didn’t want to go in there,” Gordon said. “It was a surreal moment because it was something that I worked for my entire life. To be frankly honest, I actually cried.”

Through the elation of being elected, Gordon said he couldn’t help but remember his grandmother, the first person who believed in his future and knew he could succeed. She died in 2017. “She would be the one who always pushed me and she really believed in me,” said Gordon. “I know she was there spiritually and just overlooking.”

In his first year, Gordon and his fellow councilmembers have shined the spotlight on their town in various ways. Recently,

Greenbelt became the first municipality in the state of Maryland to establish a reparations commission for African Americans and Native Americans. Though this decision presents the challenge of making Greenbelt a model for future reparations committees at the municipal and even state level, Davis said citizens so far have good reason to trust Gordon.

“I wanted to see how his enthusiasm and interest in things would last and would it continue to be a ‘working for the people’ type thing. You can propose things ‘till you’re blue in the face but if you don’t have four other votes, then your ideas are going to go nowhere,” Davis said. “Basically, he has done exactly what he said he was going to do. I think he’s doing it in a very steady manner.”

As for Gordon’s future, the door remains open for new opportunities. Just last year, Gordon was being vetted as a potential running mate in the now-finished Maryland gubernatorial election. Recently, Gordon was appointed as the first African American chair of the Young Municipal Leaders as part of the Maryland Municipal League.

“The only thing that’s certain for me in five years is that I will have a wonderful wife beside me and that’s Carla Johns,” Gordon said. “Living your dream is doable. It can happen. Whether it’s county council, whether it’s the governor’s mansion, whether it’s Pennsylvania Avenue! We’re just here to serve the people.”

Cooper Fojas is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.

Candidate	Precinct 3	Precinct 6	Precinct 8	Precinct 13	Precinct 18	Early Voting	Mail-in	Total Votes
Emmett V. Jordan	331	403	85	145	149	298	618	2,029
Kristen L.K. Weaver	309	355	78	105	105	263	579	1,794
Judith F. Davis	265	304	69	134	125	250	564	1,711
Silke I. Pope	266	303	47	116	116	219	508	1,575
Brandon Ric Gordon	250	291	78	109	104	211	426	1,469
Colin A. Byrd	230	277	92	119	130	172	425	1,445
Rodney M. Roberts	216	276	51	110	103	195	418	1,369
Matthew A. Inzeo	146	208	29	66	76	168	309	1,002
Alexander J. Zajac	156	203	27	59	52	117	322	936
William A. Orleans	65	78	23	52	35	59	122	434
Write-In	2	1	0		1	14	37	55
Total Votes Cast	2,236	2,699	579	1,015	996	1,966	4,328	13,819

Kristen Weaver finished second in the 2021 City Council election, behind only longtime councilmember Emmett Jordan, who now serves as mayor for the city. Gordon’s share of the vote saw him beat two incumbents – Rodney Roberts and then-mayor Colin Byrd.

